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United States Patent [19]**Murai et al.**[11] **Patent Number:** **5,635,958**[45] **Date of Patent:** **Jun. 3, 1997**[54] **INFORMATION INPUTTING AND PROCESSING APPARATUS**[75] Inventors: **Katsumi Murai**, Moriguchi; **Kenji Hashimoto**, Kadoma, both of Japan[73] Assignee: **Matsushita Electric Industrial Co., Ltd.**, Osaka, Japan[21] Appl. No.: **160,881**[22] Filed: **Dec. 3, 1993**[30] **Foreign Application Priority Data**

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[51] **Int. Cl.⁶** **G09G 5/00**[52] **U.S. Cl.** **345/168; 341/22; 400/490; 364/709.12**[58] **Field of Search** 345/157, 168; 340/407; 341/21, 22, 24, 28, 31-34; 200/5 R; 400/490; 364/709.11, 709.12[56] **References Cited****U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

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An apparatus for inputting and processing information through a keyboard comprises sensors for detecting that fingers of an operator have contacted with or approached keys on the keyboard, a signal processing device for inputting and processing the detection information from the sensors and information from switch circuits which are turned on or off upon operation of the keys on the keyboard, and a display unit for displaying the detection information from the sensors and the information from the switch circuits as information symbols, respectively, whereby a keyboard entry operation by the operator is made easy and comfortable, and, as a result, it becomes possible to prevent occurrence of a key entry error and to reduce the number of times of key operations.

2 Claims, 28 Drawing Sheets